

EXHIBIT A

PIVOTABLE ANTI SWAY TRAILER HITCH

This invention relates to trailer hitches and more particularly to a method and means for pivoting a hitch receiver with a slidably extendable ball mount member mounted therein from a stored position to a trailer hitch engaging position and thence to towing position

BACKGROUND OF INVENTION

Trailer hitches conventionally have been mounted to the frames of vehicles at the rear adjacent the bumper. Typically they have consisted of an elongated hollow hitch receiver mounted on the vehicle and a ball mount member adapted to be selectively inserted into the receiver and secured with the towing ball extending rearward in operative position. With no trailer attached the ball mount has presented a hazard to persons passing the rear of the vehicle and accordingly the ball mount is usually detached when not in use. Once removed the ball mount must be stowed inside the vehicle or risk loss and/or unavailability when needed. When stored in the vehicle the ball mount frequently becomes a deadly missile in the event of an accident. Further when hitching up a laterally fixed ball mount member requires accurate positioning of the towing vehicle and the trailer.

PRIOR ART

Various attempts have been made to provide a ball mount that can be rotated from a towing position to a retracted position such as shown in U.S. Patent 4,807,900 to Tate in which he provides a horizontal rotatable draw plate carrying a ball. None of the art has addressed the pivoting of the conventional hitch receiver with a removable ball mount member mounted therein from an operating extended position to a retracted stored position as shown herein. Various attempts have been made to provide a pivoted and extendible ball mount member to facilitate hitching up. Included in this category are patents 5,322,315 to Carsten; 4,951,957 to Gullickson; 5,547,210 to Dugger. My US patent 6,527,292 issued Mar. 4, 2003 addressed the first part of the above problems and this application is in part an improvement of my said patent and is based in part on my Provisional Application 60/449,353 filed February 24, 2003.

OBJECTS AND SUMMARY OF INVENTION

Accordingly it is an object of the present invention to provide a pivotally mounted hitch receiver for standard ball mount tow bars that can be easily moved from towing position to stored position with an easily extendable ball mount member to facilitate hitching up.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a pivotally mounted hitch receiver capable of safely engaging large size tow bars such as classes 3, 4, 5, and larger.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a hitch receiver for classes 3, 4, 5 and larger with an extendable ball mount member that may be easily moved from stored position to hitching up position to towing position with complete safety.

It is a still further object of the present invention to provide class 4, 5 or larger hitch

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receiver that is simple and economical to manufacture, safe and easy to use, and in stowage mode positions a ball mount in a fully retracted position so that it can not be contacted accidentally by a person's legs as they walk behind a vehicle.

These and other and further objects are accomplished in an embodiment of the present invention in which a hitch receiver is hingedly mounted between a pair of horizontal plates for pivotal movement from a rearward facing position to a side facing position.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 is an exploded perspective view of a hitch receiver and ball mount member according to the present invention;

Figure 2 is a top plan view of the apparatus of Figure 1 with the top plate removed and shown in the locked towing position;

Figure 3 is a view similar to Figure 2 showing the hitch in the stowed position;

Figure 4 is a view similar to Figures 2 & 3 showing the hitch in the extended, pivoting

EXHIBIT B

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EXHIBIT C

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